

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07 TRSE-00
LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 PA-01 ICA-11 /077 W
-----109580 122342Z /64

R 121743Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5972
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 07117

USEEC

E.O.11652: H/A
TAGS: EAID, EEC, ASEAN
SUBJECT: PREPARATIONS FOR EC-ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING,
BRUSSELS, AUTUMN 1978

REF: (A) 77 BRUSSELS 17735 (B) BRUSSELS 1271
(C) 77 BRUSSELS 17857

1. ACCORDING TO COMMISSION AND PERMREP OFFICIALS, COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EC MEMBER STATES (COREPER) HELD AN AD HOC SESSION AT THE WORKING LEVEL APRIL 5 TO ENGAGE IN PRELIMINARY PLANNING FOR EC-ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING IN BRUSSELS NOW PROPOSED FOR LATE OCTOBER OR EARLY NOVEMBER 1978.
 2. CONCERNING PROCEDURE, AD HOC WORKING GROUP DECIDED THAT DETAILED PLANNING FOR MINISTERIAL SESSION SHOULD
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TAKE PLACE FIRST AT EC-ASEAN JOINT STUDY GROUP MEETING IN MID-MAY, AND SUBSEQUENTLY AT JOINT MEETING OF EC AND ASEAN AMBASSADORS NOW SCHEDULED FOR EARLY JUNE. ACCORDING TO PERMREP OFFICIALS, IT IS EXPECTED THAT MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WILL ATTEND THE TWO-DAY AUTUMN MINISTERIAL SESSION ON BEHALF OF THE NINE; ON THE ASEAN SIDE, EITHER ECONOMIC OR FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTERS WILL PARTICIPATE,

DEPENDING ON NATURE OF AGENDA.

3. GIVEN LONG-STANDING FRG INTEREST IN PROMOTING CLOSER EC-ASEAN TIES (REF A), AS WELL AS COINCIDENCE THAT MINISTERIAL SESSION IS TO TAKE PLACE DURING FORTHCOMING FRG PRESIDENCY OF EC COUNCIL, BONN REPS ATTENDING APRIL 5 MEETING TOOK THE LEAD IN OFFERING IDEAS FOR POSSIBLE INCLUSION ON MINISTERS' SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA. ACCORDING TO PERMREP OFFICIALS, GERMANS' AGENDA SUGGESTIONS WERE DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE REFLECTION BY MEMBER STATES IN COMING WEEKS. WHILE THERE WAS A PRELIMINARY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS APRIL 5, WORKING GROUP PARTICIPANTS AGREED THAT COMMISSION SHOULD DRAW UP A MORE DEFINITE LIST OF TOPICS FOR PRESENTATION TO THE GROUP WHEN IT MEETS AGAIN IN ABOUT THREE WEEKS.

4. GERMAN REPS' AGENDA RECOMMENDATIONS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

- (A) DISCUSSION OF MODALITIES FOR ESTABLISHING CLOSER POLITICAL RAPPORT BETWEEN THE TWO REGIONS;
 - (B) EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE (TO EXPLOIT POTENTIAL MODERATING INFLUENCE OF ASEAN GROUP WITHIN G-77);
 - (C) ACCORD ON MUTUAL INVESTMENT PROTECTION AND GUARANTEES AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL (REF C);
 - (D) ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT CENTER FOR ASEAN INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION;
 - (E) MEASURES TO ACCELERATE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY TO THE ASEAN GROUP;
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(F) EC AID FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AFFECTING ASEAN MEMBER STATES; AND

(G) REVIEW OF WAYS AND MEANS TO RESPOND TO ASEAN REQUEST FOR A REGIONAL STABEX ARRANGEMENT (REF C).

5. IN A TOUR DE TABLE, REACTION OF OTHER MEMBERS OF WORKING GROUP TO FRG'S SUGGESTIONS WAS REPORTEDLY GENERALLY FAVORABLE, THOUGH NON-COMMITTAL. WE ARE TOLD THAT SEVERAL PERMREPS, INCLUDING FRANCE, ITALY AND UK, EXPRESSED DESIRE TO GO SLOW IN FACILITATING CLOSER TIES WITH ASEAN GROUP FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS. SOME, FOR INSTANCE, UNDERLINED EC'S TRADITIONAL TIES WITH AFRICA, CAUTIONING AGAINST RAISING FALSE HOPES THAT MEASURES SIMILAR IN INSPIRATION AND MAGNITUDE TO LOME CONVENTION COULD BE IMPLEMENTED VIS-A-VIS ASEAN GROUP; OTHERS INDICATED THAT IF COMMUNITY TOOK SUBSTANTIAL CONCRETE STEPS TO ASSIST ASEAN, A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT MIGHT BE CREATED REGARDING OTHER REGIONS NOT ASSOCIATED WITH EC, E.G., LATIN AMERICA.

6. CONCERNING EXPECTED BOTTOM-LINE OUTCOME OF PLANNED MINISTERIAL SESSION, WE ARE TOLD (BY BOTH EC AND ASEAN SOURCES) THAT ASEAN'S WOULD LIKE TO SEE A JOINT "DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES" WHICH WOULD SET THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK FOR EC-ASEAN COOPERATION. IT MIGHT

ALSO REFER TO SPECIFIC "ACCORDS" ON PROTECTION AND
GUARANTEE OF PRIVATE INVESTMENTS, AS WELL AS ON SUPPLY
OF CERTAIN RAW MATERIALS TO EC-9 (TO COMPENSATE FOR
POTENTIAL EC ACTION ON ASEAN REQUEST FOR REGIONAL STABEX).
MAJORITY OF THE NINE, HOWEVER, REPORTEDLY ARE LEANING
TOWARD A JOINT COMMUNIQUE, TAKING THE VIEW THAT MINIS-
TERIAL LEVEL MEETING IN ITSELF REPRESENTS SUFFICIENT
"POLITICAL RECOGNITION" OF IMPORTANCE OF ASEAN BY THE
COMMUNITY.

7. MISSION RENEWS REQUEST, PARA 7, REF B, FOR AN UPDATE
ON USG VIEWS ON RECENT TRENDS IN EC-ASEAN RELATIONS, AS
WELL AS ANY INFORMATION ON PROSPECTS FOR US-ASEAN

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MINISTERIAL MEETING (IN ADDITION TO THAT CONTAINED IN
STATE 47752) THAT MISSION MIGHT TRANSMIT TO COMMISSION
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